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URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1944

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For Year 1944

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OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

-:-:-:-:-:-:-

Clerk: P. A. Clifford, F.I.A.C.

Medical Officer: Dr. D. Bell, M.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:
F. Greenwood, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Surveyor and Water Engineer: E. E. B. Harrison, A.M.I.M.C.E.

Council Office: Huddersfield Road, Skelmanthorpe.
Telephone: Skelmanthorpe 3141

Surveyor's and Sanitary Inspector's Office:
Wakefield Road, Denby Dale.
Telephone: Skelmanthorpe 3101

Medical Officer: The Cliffe, Commercial Road, Skelmanthorpe.
Telephone: Skelmanthorpe 2239

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Members of the

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DENBY DALE

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1944.

The report has again been curtailed in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, but the main facts necessary for the keeping of records are included.

The health of the district generally has again been good.

With respect to infectious diseases - there was some incidence of Measles and whooping Cough during the period September to December, but the number of cases was considerably less than last year. Scarlet Fever, as in the previous year, occurred sporadically throughout the seasons - the number of cases being just one less than the previous year. Two cases only of Diphtheria have occurred, but one case was fatal. This patient had not been immunized.

The Death Rate shows a decrease, being 11·9 as compared with 14·1 for the previous year. This rate is slightly higher than the death rate for England and Wales for this year which is 11·6.

The Birth Rate of 20·4 shows an increase over the rates for the previous two years of 1943 and 1942, namely - 17·5 and 16·7. This compares favourably with the birth rate of 17·6 for the year in England and Wales.

The portion of the report relating to the Sanitary Circumstances of the area has been prepared by the Sanitary Inspector. My sincere thanks are due to him for his help.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DOUGLAS BELL, M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A. - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	10,165 acres
Maximum elevation	1,050 ft.
Minimum elevation	283 ft.
Population - Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid 1944	9,262
Number of inhabited houses	3,154
Number of above houses which rank as working class	2,852
Number of new houses completed in 1944	0
Rateable value	£36,731
Sum represented by a penny rate (estimated)... ...	£ 139

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VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births (Legitimate) ...	184	92	92	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population mid 1944 - 20·4
(Illegitimate) ...	5	3	2	
Still Births (Legitimate) ...	6	4	2	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 30·7
(Illegitimate)...	0	0	0	
Deaths	111	53	58	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population - 11·9

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's (short list) :-

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No.29 Puerperal sepsis	0	-
No.30 Other puerperal casues	0	-
Total	0	-

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	26·9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	26·9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0·0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	15
" " Measles (all ages)	0
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0
" " Cardiac Diseases	33
" " Pneumonia	1
" " Tuberculosis	0
" " Other circulatory causes	4

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

AMBULANCE FACILITIES - For infectious cases a motor ambulance is maintained by the Joint Isolation Hospital Committee.

For accident sickness and maternity cases, ambulances are provided by the Huddersfield & District Hospitals Contributory Scheme.

All contributory patients are conveyed to any hospital or institution within the area of the scheme free of charge.

Non-contributory patients have these facilities at a fixed charge of 12/6d. (The Council have an agreement to make good any unpaid amounts to the Contributory Scheme).

Street accident cases are conveyed free of charge.

HOSPITALS - Infectious diseases are treated at the Penistone Joint Isolation Hospital which is situate a short distance outside the area. The Hospital is controlled by a Joint Committee of representatives of the constituent authorities.

For smallpox there is a separate small Hospital situate in the same neighbourhood and controlled by the same Committee. No change or extension of these premises has taken place during the year.

General and accident cases are received by the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.

There is no local Cottage Hospital and there are no local Maternity Homes.

SECTION F - PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Table I. Shows notifications received of Notifiable Disease (other than Tuberculosis).

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	31	31	0
Diphtheria	2	2	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	0	0	-
Measles	27	0	0
Pneumonia	20	0	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	0	0	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	-
Whooping Cough	55	0	0

TABLE II. Shows the age distribution of certain of the Notified Infectious Diseases

	AGE GROUPS												
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & Over	Total
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0	2	2	4	15	3	1	4	0	0	31
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES

Non-Pulmonary - males 1 females 2

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Measles and Whooping Cough were prevalent from September to December.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The greater part of the area derives its supply from the Dewsbury & Heckmondwike Waterworks Boad and the other part of the area from the Huddersfield Corporation.

The supply is distributed by the Council and, except for a number of isolated premises, the supply is available throughout the area. The number of houses connected is 3,021 and the number not connected is 136.

The occasional shortage of water in the Emley Ward has been remedied by the installation of electrically operated pumping apparatus interposed between the supply main and the storage tank. It acts as a "booster" and is put into operation when the ordinary pressure im the main is insufficient.

Samples of water have been taken at regular intervals from the main source of supply and submitted to the County Laboratory for Bacteriological examination. Similar examinations have been carried out for observation purposes of the Rusby Reservoir Spring and wells which were formerly used as part of the Public Supply.

The results are detailed in the Table over page.

Bacteriological Examination of Water Samples taken from the Councils Supplies during the year 1944

Source of Supply	Dates of Samples											
	Jan. 5	Feb. 1	Mar. 7	Apl. 5	May 8	June 5	July 3	Aug. 8	Sept. 7	Oct. 2	Nov. 2	Dec. 4
Dewsbury & Heckmondwike Joint Waterworks Board Presumptive B. Coli in 100 m.l.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
Huddersfield Corporation Waterworks Presumptive B. Coli in 100 m.l.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rusby Old Spring Presumptive B. Coli in 100 m.l.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rusby New Wells Presumptive B. Coli in 100 m.l.	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1

Ministry of Health Water Standards for Piped Supplies

Class 1	Highly Satisfactory	-	less than 1	Presumptive	Coliform	count in	100 m.l.
Class 2	Satisfactory	-	1 - 2	"	"	"	"
Class 3	Suspicious	-	3 - 10	"	"	"	"
Class 4	Unsatisfactory	-	greater than 10	"	"	"	"

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

A number of the outlying parts of the area still remain unsewered or only partly sewered. There are five separate outfall works for sewage disposal. No complaints have been received from the West Riding Rivers Board with respect to the effluent.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Very little pollution from domestic sewage occurs.

CLOSET ACCOMODATION

The Council make a small grant towards the cost of the conversion of privy closets to the water carriage system. During the year 11 privies have been replaced with W.C.s and 11 additional W.C.s have been provided. During the previous five years 119 privies have been converted.

A survey has been completed for the purpose of making registers of the closet accommodation on two wards of the area in respect of which accurate records had not previously been made. It was revealed that the number of W.C.s had been slightly over-estimated and the number of privies over-estimated to a greater extent.

A summary of the accommodation is appended -

Closet System	No. of Houses	No. of other Premises	No. of W.C.s	No. of Privies	No. of Pails
W.C.	1571	80	2065	-	-
W.C. and Privy	93	6		1420	-
Privy	1489	35	-		
Pail	1	1	-	-	2

Many of the privies are old and insanitary structures and call for elimination. Absence of, or the non-availability of, suitable sewers at 489 houses and 14 other premises with a total of 452 privies, renders the provision of W.C.s impracticable in such cases.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Scavenging with the exception of the emptying of cesspools is undertaken by the Council and is carried out by the Council's staff and motor vehicles. One scavenging type vehicle with a squad of 4 men is engaged full time on the work and one general purpose type vehicle is engaged part-time with men drawn from the highways department. The efficiency of the work has again been seriously affected by illness of the staff and the shortage of suitable labour. The disposal of the refuse is by tipping on the uncontrolled system.

The cost of collection and disposal was - £1771. 0. 0.

NOTE - The circumstances recorded above were relating to the period up to December 31st. Subsequently conditions worsened until Mid-March, when the acquisition of labour fit for the work, enabled a normal collection to be resumed .

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Number and nature of Inspections and Visits made

Investigating complaints	56
Property under notice	21
Work in progress	76
Factories	3
Bakehouses	7
Cowsheds	250
Dairy (at non-producers premises)	1
Meat shops	8
Provision shops	15
Food Preparing premises	6
Private slaughterhouses (Inspecting pigs slaughtered under Food Control Licences)	123
Pig Keepers premises ( )	108
Taking milk samples, for Bacteriological test	2
Taking water samples for Bacteriological test	37
Requisitioned premises	6
Public swimming bath	3
Infectious diseases - enquiries and disinfections	42
Recording type and condition of sanitary conveniences	423
Supervision of scavenging	40
Miscellaneous premises and visits	86
Interviews with property owners	14
Infestation Order (Rats and Mice Destruction):-	
Visits and revisits to premises affected	30
Supervision of baiting of sewer manholes	21
Preparatory surveys made for recording additions to and revision of sewer plans	18
	1395

Note:- For inspections under the Housing Acts, see Section D.

Other visits and enquiries were made as Enforcement Inspector for the Food Control Committee and as Inspector under the Petroleum Acts.

REMOVAL OF NUISANCES

NUMBER AND NATURE OF DEFECTS FOUND AT 44 PREMISES

Drains choked	8
Drains Defective	3
Sewers choked	2
Sink waste pipe defective	1
Privy closets requiring conversion	9
W.C. requiring reconstructing	1
Additional W.C. accommodation required	8
Eaves spout defective	1
Roofing defective	4
Plaster of ceiling defective	1
Bug infested house	1
Clothes-moth infested house	1
Nuisance from emptying of slops	1
Lack of dustbins	2
Factory bakery with insufficient sanitary accommodation	1
Factory with defective sanitary accommodation	1
Cowsheds not limewashed at appointed time	2
Lack of milk-rooms at dairy farm	1
	48

Of these defects 43 were remedied and also 7 defects outstanding from previous years.

NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED - Informal 9 complied with 6

Statutory 0

SUMMONSES AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS - None

SHOPS ACTS 1934, SECTIONS 10 and 13

No defects have been found under the part of the Act administered by the Sanitary Authority.

CAMPING SITES. There are no sites in the area for camping purposes subject to the licencing provisions of the Public Health Act.

SMOKE ABATEMENT. This matter is affected by wartime conditions and no action has been taken.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS. There is one swimming bath only in the area. This is owned by the local Miners' Welfare Fund Trustees but negotiations are in progress for the taking over of the premises by the Council. It is a modern covered bath fitted with a Chlorination and Filtration apparatus operated on the continuous system. Daily tests of the bath-water for chlorine content are carried out by the superintendent in charge. Replacement of chlorination and filtering apparatus with a modern apparatus will be necessary when circumstances permit. The best use possible appears to have been made however of the present apparatus .

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. One case of infestation was notified by the tenant of a house. The infestation was caused by a visitor. Eradication was accomplished by the use of liquid insecticide

SCHOOLS. All the schools are in a good sanitary condition and have the Council's water supply installed. The Privy system remains at two schools but in one case the sewerage system is not suitable for the installation of the water-carriage system.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (Form 572). The return of statistics in this form is in abeyance.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT 1919. INFESTATION ORDER 1943

The part-time ratcatchers employed by the Council have sent in reports showing 744 rats caught. The premises affected were mainly farms and pig and poultry keepers premises. The incidents dealt with number 160.

Seven complaints have been received and dealt with by your Sanitary Inspector. Infestation was found in 6 of these cases originating from 1 farm, 4 poultry keepers premises and 1 refuse tip.

With respect to the Directions dated 27th March given by the Ministry of Food regarding the systematic treatment of sewer rats, work could not be commenced until the middle of November owing to inability to obtain labour. Adverse weather conditions have slowed down the work.

SECTION D - HOUSING

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES

Ten houses have been inspected under the Housing Acts. Defective conditions were found at 6 of these houses. In 5 of these cases the defects were of a minor nature. In the other case extensive reconditioning was necessary and was carried out by the owner. The number of houses repaired during the year was 6. The total number of inspections made was 13.

OVERCROWDING. At the end of last year 9 houses were overcrowded. One case has been abated and four new cases have been found, leaving 12 cases at the end of this year.

PROVISION OF NEW HOUSES - POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT

The Council's proposals are to erect 200 houses in the first two post-war years. Existing housing sites will accommodate 27 houses and the remainder on 9 other sites in respect of which negotiations are in progress.

The total area of all the sites to be developed is approximately 31 acres. The types of houses proposed are:-
Three Bedroom (140); two bedroom (40); Bungalows for ageing persons(20)

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY. Practically all the supply is produced within the area and is mainly distributed by the producers. A quantity of milk is despatched to neighbouring towns.

The premises generally are maintained in a satisfactory condition. but a number of producers still need the provision of milk rooms. One farm has been provided with such accommodation during the year.

The County Council is the licencing authority with respect to the production of milk under the Special Designation Order and the sampling of such milk is carried out by the County Officials.

One "Accredited" licence has lapsed owing to removal to other premises. One licence has been issued for the production of "Tuberculing Tested" milk. There are no producers of "Pasteurised" milk.

No retailers have been removed from the register by proceedings under the Milk and Dairies Order. There were no instances recorded of disease attributed to milk during the year.

Cowkeepers entered in the Register		90
Cowkeepers producing milk for sale -		
Retail	45)	
Retail and wholesale	11)	87
Wholesale	31)	
"Accredited" producers included in above figures		21
"Tuberculin Tested" producers		1
Cowsheds - (in register 150) in use		140
Milch cows in the area, (approx.)		1180

Samples of ordinary milk taken for Methlene Blue Test - 2 (both were satisfactory)
Samples of Designated Milk - copies of reports on samples taken by the County Council's staff are forwarded to this Council for information purposes. During the year 35 of such reports have been received.

MEAT SUPPLY

The supply is derived from Government controlled premises outside the area.

Inspection of producers pigs slaughtered for bacon curing purposes under Food Control Licences in the slaughterhouses or at the producers premises, has been carried out whenever possible. The number of pig carcases inspected was 325. Twelve of these carcases were found in some degree to be affected with Tuberculosis.

There are 12 licenced slaughterhouses in the area but no public abattoir.

OTHER FOODS.

The premises registered for the use of making up and preparing foodstuffs are maintained in a satisfactory condition.

At provision shops 40 tins of various foodstuffs were examined by request and found to be unsound. Three lots of imported butter totalling 123 lbs. were examined by request and found to be unsaleable for rationing purposes and were returned to the wholesale suppliers for reconditioning or salvage purposes and in order that replacement could be claimed.

ADULTERATION OF FOODS

The provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, relating to the composition of food and drugs, are administered by the County Council.

The following particulars have been extracted from information supplied by the County Food & Drugs Officer relating to action taken in this area:-

Samples taken -	Milk	54
	Other Food and Drugs,	11
Samples Adulterated or unsatisfactory -		
	Milk	4
	Other Food and Drugs	0
Number of prosectutions		0
Number of cautions (for milk)		4

APPENDICE

ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 - part 3 (?)
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 - part 2 (?)
Public Health Act, 1925 - part 2 (?)
Private Streets Works Act, 1892 - the whole
(?) (except sections repealed by P.H. Act 1936)

DELEGATED POWERS UNDER ACTS

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1929. The powers held by the West Riding County Council were delegated to the Denby Dale U.D.C. by resolution dated 15/1/41.

REGULATIONS

Regulations directing the "material, size and construction" of dustbins for domestic refuse, were adopted on the 6th June 1939, under the Provisions of Section 70 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

BYELAWS

Buildings and Streets

Adoption of new byelaws is in hand. The byelaws previously in force ceased to have effect on the 31st July 1939, by reason of Provisions contained in the Public Health Act, 1936.

Drainage of existing buildings
Tents, vans, sheds and similar structures
Means of escape in case of fire (Factories)
Slaughterhouses
Nuisances

Byelaws with respect to these matters are in force in the Denby & Cumberworth Wards, and also in the Clayton West Ward with the exception of Nuisances.

(The byelaws previously in force in the Skelmanthorpe and Emley Wards ceased to have effect on the 1st of April 1939 under the provisions of Article 86 of the West Riding Review Order, 1938).

Smoke Abatement.

Byelaws under the Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Act 192., are in force in the Denby & Cumberworth and the Skelmanthorpe Wards.

Petroleum Filling Stations

Byelaws governing the construction and maintenance of Petrol Filling Stations (from an aesthetic point of view) adopted by the County Council on the 15th July 1936, became enforceable by the Denby Dale U.D. Council by resolution passed 16th December 1938.

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 & 1936 (Safety Provisions)

Twenty-four licences have been granted for the keeping of Petroleum Spirit and one licence for the keeping of Carbide of Calcium.